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Appendix: Report of a voyage from Sydney to Kangaroo Island and of observations made during a stay of seven months on, and near the island, by Captain Sutherland, p. 33-40.

Ferguson 1472

1. S.A.—Colonization
2. S.A.—Descr.
- I. Sutherland, George

325.942

PROPOSAL

TO

HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

FOR FOUNDING

A COLONY

ON THE

SOUTHERN COAST OF AUSTRALIA.

" Government is called upon, on sound political principles, to afford every
" possible encouragement that can be given not to these alone (the Australian
" Colonies), but to infant Colonies in all parts of the world, as furnishing the
" surest and most constant markets for the demand and consumption of British
" manufactures, the supply of which will be limited only by the power they
" possess of making a return for the value of the commodities produced by the
" skill and labour of our Artisans."—*Quarterly Review*, No. 78, p. 333.

LONDON :

PRINTED BY W. NICOL, CLEVELAND-ROW ST. JAMES'S.

1831.

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August 3rd, 1831.

At a Meeting held this day at the Chambers of
WILLIAM TOOKE, Esq. 39, Bedford-row,

COLONEL TORRENS, M. P. in the Chair,

It was resolved,

That the Proposal as prepared by the Sub-Committee be approved.

That the Committee be requested to print such Proposal for the purpose of circulation, with a view to obtain the sanction of influential individuals preparatory to the Plan being submitted to His Majesty's Government.

That these preliminary measures be adopted on the clear understanding that any expressed sanction of the proposed measure shall be considered one only of general approval, and shall not involve the Committee or any other party in any liability or obligation for further exertion.

That so soon as a sufficient number of names is obtained, a Deputation from this Committee shall confer with the Colonial Office on the subject, after which a Meeting shall be convened for the purpose of making definitive arrangements.

Communications from persons desirous to promote the objects of this Proposal, to be addressed to WILLIAM TOOKE, Esq. 39, Bedford Row, where Charts of the situation may be seen.

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PROPOSAL,

fc. fc.

THE Committee of a Society established for the purpose of founding a Colony on the Southern Coast of Australia, in a spot now absolutely desert and removed from any settlement, have the honour to submit to Viscount Goderich, His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the Colonial Department, the following PROPOSAL, in which they have defined the mode of Colonization and the system of Taxation and Government, the establishment of which constitutes their object in the undertaking. It is incumbent on them to declare in the outset, that what they request of His Majesty's Government is limited to its sanction of their enterprize; the very essence of their scheme being to promote colonization without cost or burden to the mother country; and they are led to hope that the *mere sanction* of Government, of which they stand in need, will be readily accorded to them, in consideration of the advantages which the mother country would derive from a mode of colonization eminently calculated to relieve the over-stocked market of British labour.

MODE OF COLONIZATION.

The *basis* of colonization being waste land liable to be appropriated by emigrants at first, and afterwards by emigrants and the increasing population of the colony, it is plain that the progress of colonization must, in a great measure, depend upon the mode in which the Home Government at first, and the Colonial Government afterwards, shall dispose of such land. On this account, the promoters of this undertaking have framed a set of Regulations for the disposal of waste land according to an uniform system, having for object, the prevention of the numerous evils which have arisen in all modern colonies, from the infinite variety of modes in which the *basis* of colonization has been treated. After patient investigation they have arrived at the conclusion that for the greatest progress of colonization, the leading principles which ought to be adopted in the disposal of waste land are the following;

- 1.° That every one *able* and *willing* to cultivate any portion of land, at the disposal of Government, should be allowed to appropriate the same without any condition or burden whatsoever.
 - 2.° That no one, either *unwilling* or *unable* to cultivate waste land, should be allowed to appropriate the same under any pretext whatsoever.
-

In order to give effect to these two principles, it is only necessary to provide that the immigration of labourers shall correspond with the appropriation of waste land according to a measure which should, as to every grant, occasion a supply of labour neither more nor less than sufficient for performing the obligation incurred by the appropriation of land, viz. the obligation to cultivate. All waste therefore, it is proposed, should be given away, but in such a manner, that the act of appropriation shall fulfil the obligation incurred by it. For this purpose the following Regulations for THE DISPOSAL OF WASTE land are proposed.

1. That an estimate be made of the number of hands required to cultivate a given extent of waste land in the most profitable manner, and a further estimate of the cost to be incurred for the passage of the number of immigrant labourers required to cultivate such an extent of land.
2. That every one shall be at liberty to appropriate any extent of waste land, and in such situation as he may prefer upon payment to the colonial government of the sum requisite to pay for the passage of the number of labourers necessary to cultivate the land appropriated.
3. That the whole produce of sales of land (with the exception stated below,) shall be employed in procuring from the overstocked market of Britain, the greatest amount of labour; so that the money apparently paid for land shall really be paid for labour only.

4. That in order to render the cost of immigration as low as possible, and to give to him who purchases labour by the appropriation of land the greatest possible return for his money, the immigrants brought to the colony shall consist entirely of young married or marriageable persons of both sexes in equal proportions. Amongst the other advantages contingent on adherence to this system, will be a prevention of the necessity of introducing convict labour in the colony.
5. That the only exception to so disposing of the funds obtained by the sale of land, shall be the payment out of that fund of the expence of indispensable surveys.
6. That the sales of land shall be conducted in the following manner:—

First—That a considerable extent of waste land beyond that already appropriated, shall at all times be surveyed in advance, and divided into lots of not less than 80 acres each, maps of the same being constantly open to inspection in the public surveyor's office.

Second — That persons desirous to purchase labour by the appropriation of land, shall apply in writing for any lot or lots, and public notice of four clear weeks from the date of the application being given, the lot or lots shall be put up to auction at the minimum price (*see Regulations 10 and 11*) ; that the highest bidder shall be de-

clared the purchaser; but if there be no higher bidding than the upset price, then the original applicant shall be entitled to the lot or lots.*

7. That the fund obtained by the sales of waste land, after paying the expence of surveys, be placed at the disposal of His Majesty's Government, but with this distinct obligation on their part, viz. that the whole of what they so receive, shall be expended in the manner stated in Articles 3 and 4.
8. That not a single acre of land shall be granted, except upon the terms specified above, and that there shall be no Government reserves of land for any purpose whatsoever; but if the Government should want land for any purpose, it shall purchase the same in like manner with individuals, and the purchase money shall be employed as in other cases; so that there may be no departure from the uniform and impartial system by which every appropriation of land must be accompanied by a corresponding increase of the supply of labour and of the colonial population. This is not meant to prevent any colonist from pasturing his cattle on any land so long as it shall remain unappropriated.

* This is the system of selling land adopted by the Government of the United States, which for many years past has derived about £500,000. a year from that source, the minimum price being 5s. 7½d. per acre.

9. That whatever may be the price for land determined, as that which would ensure the due cultivation of all land granted, a lower price shall be required during the early years of the settlement; the object of such distinction being to hold out to capitalists a motive for advancing the funds for founding the first settlement.
 10. That the minimum price of land shall for the first year be 5s. per acre.
 11. That after the expiration of the first year the minimum price of land shall be raised to 7s. 6d. per acre, and subsequently by such steps as may be found convenient, until the price demanded for land shall be that which will ensure the cultivation of all land granted.
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**PLAN
FOR FOUNDING THE COLONY.**

For the purpose of founding the colony it is proposed to form a Company in London under the following general regulations.

1. That the capital of the Company consist of £500,000. to be divided into shares of £50. each.
2. That one fourth of the sum raised by the Company be applicable to the payment to His

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Majesty's Government for land, subject to such purchase money being expended as by Regulations 3 and 4.

3. That another fourth of the sum raised by the Company be reserved for advances to small capitalists who may be disposed to settle in the colony, either on the Company's land or on land purchased of the Government.
 4. That the remainder, being half of the capital of the Company (with the reserve only of expences of management) be appropriated to the object of adding value to the Company's land by the employment thereon of the labourers sent out with the first named portion of the Company's capital in the construction of roads, bridges, &c.
-

The object of this undertaking being to establish a system which should produce the most rapid progress of colonization wherever adopted, and, if generally adopted, should confer the greatest benefit on the mother country, it is necessary to provide that the investment of capital in founding the colony should prove a profitable speculation to those who may advance the necessary funds. With this especial view therefore, the proposed mode of employing the capital of the Company has been devised.

The profits of the Company will be derived from

one source only; viz. the rent and resale of land purchased from Government.

As the Company will be the first applicants for land, they will have *the first choice of situation*; and will of course select their grants on spots of superior natural value, and especially, a large portion of it, on the spot chosen for a port and for the seat of Government. Considering that in thinly peopled countries, the superior value of land is determined in but a slight measure by natural fertility, and almost entirely by the degree of vicinity to the means of obtaining labour and manure, and to markets, it becomes plain that the land of the Company would soon be far more valuable than any other lot of land of similar extent in the colony, even if the Company should not expend capital in improving their land; but as it is further proposed to expend one half of the Company's capital not in cultivating their land, but in rendering it by means of roads, docks and buildings, the seat of Government and the centre of commerce, the first choice and a judicious outlay of capital will combine to render the land of the Company peculiarly valuable. It should be remembered here, that in new colonies up to the present time, a great scarcity or absolute want of labourers has prevented capitalists even from cultivating their land properly, and much more from bestowing upon it those artificial advantages which, especially in thinly peopled countries, constitute superior value; whereas in the present case, the money with which the capitalist obtains land will be immediately con-

verted into labour—and also into people, by whose number in proportion to land, the competition for valuable land must be determined, and the proof of value given by facility of selling at an enhanced price.

Besides the advantage, however, of first choice, and the means of turning that first choice to the best account, another great advantage would be enjoyed by the Company, viz. the increase of the Government price of waste land (as by Regulation 11) after one year from the date of the first settlement; so that, at the very least, and after but a very short time, it is clear, the whole of the land of the Company would obtain an increase of value equal to the difference between the Government price of waste land in the first year, and after the first year of the settlement.

One consideration in respect to this scheme, will occur to every one accustomed to the economy of an old and thickly peopled country; namely, whether the inhabitants of the proposed colony will be able from the outset, to produce exchangeable commodities, so as to be able to carry on a trade with other countries, providing a market of exchange, whereby the produce of the colony shall be readily converted into money, or the medium of exchange wherewith to pay for fresh land, and for the immigration of fresh labourers.

Upon this point it is proper to offer a few remarks.

No modern colony where slavery did not exist, has been able to produce exchangeable commo-

dities to any great extent ; but whenever slavery was established in any modern colony, exchangeable commodities have been immediately produced, and the colonists have become suddenly wealthy. Virginia is a good example. That colony did not produce exchangeable commodities, indeed it did not produce food sufficient for the people, during the first forty years of its existence ; but at the end of forty years a Dutch ship loaded with slaves reached the colony, when the Slave Trade was introduced, and from that moment the settlers of Virginia were enabled to produce tobacco, and became the wealthiest of the settlers on the coast of America.

Now, why did the introduction of slaves enable the Virginians to produce exchangeable commodities ? Because with slaves it was possible to have combination of labour ; that is to say, the capitalist was able to employ a great number of labourers in the same field, at the same work, and for a considerable period of time ; a mode of employing labour quite impossible in colonies where land was obtainable for nothing, and where there were no slaves, and the only mode in which it is possible to produce tobacco, sugar and most other exchangeable commodities.

Now, the main feature of the proposed undertaking is, that, without resorting to the hateful system of slavery, there should in consequence of the immigration of voluntary labour always be an ample supply of hands in proportion to the land cultivated, so that at all times it will be possible to

employ many hands in one field at the same time, in the same work, and for a considerable period of time together, and thereby easily to produce exchangeable commodities.

It has been asked with reference to the proposed colony, what is the value of the commodities *exported* from New South Wales? The question is asked with a view of conjecturing by analogy what will be the value of the exportable produce of the intended colony. Any answer to the question would mislead; because the intended colony will have combination of capital and labour, and will be able to produce commodities, which the people of New South Wales have never been able to produce, because, in consequence of their dispersion, they could not use combination of labour and capital. The question ought to be, "What is the value of commodities producible on such a soil, and under such a climate as those of the New Colony which form, not the exports only but some of the imports of colonies in that neighbourhood?" The proposed colony, in consequence of its enjoying combination of capital and labour, will be able to produce commodities such as the dispersed inhabitants of New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land have hitherto been obliged to import, and therefore, it is clear they will be able to produce commodities exchangeable with those settlements, with India, South America, and China. This is the answer to the question.—The proposed colony, in consequence of the combination of capital and labour provided for by an ample supply of labour, will be able to produce exchangeable commodities.

On the whole, the projectors of this Company feel confident that the capital advanced by it for founding the settlement will soon be returned with large profits; and this they repeat, will be with them a leading consideration, because if they should succeed in showing that a portion of the capital of the mother country for which there is no profitable employment at home, may be most profitably employed in colonization, there can be no doubt that much British capital will be so employed, leaving the country only for a time, and returning with increase, but carrying with it a corresponding amount of surplus labour.

GOVERNMENT.

In the following outline of a plan of Government for the proposed colony, it is provided that as soon as possible the colonists shall defray the whole cost of their own Government. From two features of the proposed mode of colonizing it may be inferred, that the colonists will be able to do this at an earlier period than in the case of any other colony, by means of the much more rapid influx of people, and the much greater production by a given number of hands arising from the combination of capital and labour. But for a short while it will be impossible to raise any taxes in the new settlement. Nevertheless, the undersigned do not call on His Majesty's Government for any contribution, even, towards the cost of governing the settlement. On the contrary, they propose that

the cost of governing the settlement during the short period, when it will be impossible—to raise taxes for that purpose, shall be wholly defrayed by the Company; upon this understanding, that the expense shall not exceed a certain stipulated amount per annum, and that the Company shall have a claim on the colony for repayment of the whole sum so expended.

It is proposed that the sums required for this purpose be drawn from that half of the Company's capital, which is to be set apart for adding value to their land: and indeed the proposed outlay for Government may be strictly considered as employed in adding value to the Company's land, since Government is indispensable to society, and a cheap government, such as the Company must establish, will be a temptation to many persons to place themselves under it.

It is proposed that the ultimate repayment of the Company's outlay for Government, shall be provided for in the Charter, by which His Majesty may sanction the establishment of the colony.

The following outline of a plan of Government has been drawn up with a deep conviction that the success of the proposed undertaking, as well in its character of a mercantile speculation as in that of a scheme of Emigration for relieving the mother country of her surplus population, is dependent on and will be proportional to the success of the colonists:—that the greater the prosperity of the colony and the more rapid its progress, the more profitable will be the investment of the shareholders,

and the sooner, and more completely will the colony find employment for our surplus population.

The objects which have therefore been kept in view in forming a plan of Government to be proposed for the colony, and which the Company purposes steadily to pursue in carrying that plan into execution and supplying its details are;

Firstly, To prevent the progress of the colony from being impeded by any shackles on its agriculture or trade, or by any of the errors in Government which the experience of other colonies has discovered.

And secondly, to employ the powers of Government as a great engine for promoting the prosperity of the colonists.

To lay the foundation of a colony which like the one now proposed rests its hopes of success chiefly on the strict adherence to certain principles which have not hitherto been applied with the requisite degree of steadiness and in combination, it is of great importance and indeed absolutely necessary that the Government of the colony during its infancy should be in the hands of persons who fully comprehend those principles and will zealously and firmly persevere in their application, with such modifications as an enlightened experience may suggest, until they are either crowned with, or proved incapable of, success.

On this ground and in consideration of the advance proposed to be made by the Company of the whole expense of Government during this period, it is proposed that until the male adult population of

the colony shall amount to 10,000, supreme power shall be lodged in the hands of a Governor to be commissioned by His Majesty on the nomination of the Company and removable by it: subject to his Majesty's veto on every nomination.

To prevent those evils which have been so severely felt in many colonies from the establishment of a colonial council, it is further proposed that during the same period the whole responsibility of Government shall be concentrated in the Governor, whose power will therefore be undivided.

A colonial council, however constituted, not merely divides responsibility but almost annihilates it as far as each individual is concerned, by rendering it uncertain in almost every instance whether a measure has been carried in consequence of, or in opposition to, his wishes: and if selected by the Governor from among the colonists themselves either establishes a pernicious system of favoritism, or subjects the Governor to unjust suspicions, which are equally efficient causes of distrust, jealousies and discontent. In the present instance too the course proposed is farther recommended by its necessity to secure the application of the principles which are relied on to ensure the success of the colony and prevent those obstructions which would otherwise arise out of the prejudices or immature notions that might happen to be entertained by the few persons to whom the Governor's choice would necessarily be limited in the infancy of the colony.

The whole power and responsibility of Government being vested, according to this plan, in the Governor it is farther proposed, as follows.

1. That a set of Regulations free from unnecessary technicalities, and vicious subtleties, and adapted to the transactions and comprehension of a population consisting principally of labourers and farmers transplanted into a new colony, shall be prepared by the Company for the use of the colony, and printed for distribution among the colonists.
2. That with the exception of a few of these regulations to be expressly designated, such as those framed to secure the liberty of the press, and those that regulate the descent of property, which will be unchangeable by the Governor, his power of legislation shall be unlimited in extent, and fettered only by the necessity of sufficient promulgation.
3. That these regulations shall be administered by Magistrates, or Justices, to be chosen from time to time by the inhabitants of the districts over which they are respectively to have jurisdiction. With an appeal under certain restrictions to the Governor himself, or to a substitute to be appointed by him for that purpose.
4. That the trade of the colony shall be perfectly free ; the colonists having the privilege of selling their produce and buying their supplies wherever they may think proper.
5. That the defence of the colony shall be provided for by a militia to be composed of the whole male population of the colony above the age of 16, and under 60.
6. That so soon as the male adult population of the colony shall amount to 10,000, to be deter-

mined by a census to be taken annually, measures shall be taken for the establishment of the Permanent Government, which shall consist of a Legislative Assembly to be elected annually by the male adult population under the best securities for independence of choice, and of a Governor to be appointed by the crown who shall have the power of suspending the execution of any new law passed by the Assembly and referring it to His Majesty whose veto will be absolute.

7. That the legislative power possessed by the Governor during the existence of the Provisional Government shall cease and vest in the legislative Assembly immediately it meets.
8. That all the other institutions then established shall remain in full force, until they shall have been altered or abolished by the Legislative Assembly.
9. That the Company's liability to provide for the expenses of Government shall cease at the expiration of twelve months from the first meeting of the Assembly, when the nomination of the Governor shall revert to the Crown and the future expenses of Government be defrayed by the colony.

The Committee feeling that the general dissemination of knowledge will greatly accelerate the progress of the colony, on which the success of the Company depends, farther propose that the Company should during the existence of the Provisional Government provide a sufficient number of teachers not merely to instruct the infant and adult inha-

oritants to read and write, but to spread among them, as far as possible, knowledge which will be useful in their new state, such as information respecting the species and modes of cultivation suited to the condition, soil and climate of the colony; and the various arts capable of affording them assistance in procuring and preparing food, shelter and clothing.

To these might be added some knowledge of the general principles which determine the success or failure of different branches of trade and commerce, and such a foundation of moral, political, and general knowledge, as shall fit the colonists for the exercise of their political rights, when the period arrives for the establishment of the Permanent Government. To assist in promoting this object it is proposed, that the Company should furnish the colony with a Circulating Library, selected with these views.

The Company being altogether of a commercial nature, will abstain from all interference with the religious sentiments of the colonists, or with any arrangements which they may think proper to establish for instruction according to their respective opinions.

THE SITUATION

proposed for the settlement, and where the seat of Government will be placed, is on the most desirable part of the main land between the 132nd. and 141st. degrees of East Longitude, or on Kangaroo Island.

This part of the South coast was discovered by Captain Flinders of His Majesty's Ship Investigator. The survey however, he acknowledges to be far from complete; and it seems extraordinary that after having discovered so large an arm of the sea as Spencer's Gulf, that it should never have been deemed worthy of further consideration, or that instructions respecting it should never have been given to Officers since employed on the surveying duty.

As respects the coast from Fowler's Bay to Coffin's Bay, the only information that can be obtained will be found in the following extracts from Captain Flinders's Voyage, Vol. 1. page 109, et passim.

" FOWLER'S BAY is open only to three points of the
 " compass, South, East by South, and East South
 " East; and it was evident from plants growing
 " close to the water side, that a swell capable of
 " injuring a vessel at anchor, was seldom, if ever,
 " thrown into it."

" PETREL BAY, in the isle of St. Francis affords ex-
 " cellent shelter for two or three ships, there was
 " no rise of the tide sufficient to be worthy of
 " notice here nor in Fowler's Bay."

" At the entrance of DENIAL BAY, besides quan-
 " tities of grass, and branches of trees, or bushes
 " floating in the water there was a number of long
 " gauze-winged insects topping about the surface,
 " such as frequent fresh water lakes and swamps;
 " good anchorage was found in six fathoms off the
 " beach on the north side of the western or smallest
 " island."

“ On the north side of Point Brown the shore
 “ formed a large open Bay, into which we hauled up
 “ as much as the wind would permit, but the water
 “ having shoaled to five fathoms, and not perceiving
 “ any inlet we bore away Westward along the land.
 “ The number of Smokes rising from the shores of
 “ this wide, open place, induced me to give it the
 “ name of SMOKY BAY.”

“ There being much refuse from the shore, as well
 “ as sea weed floating about, hopes of finding a river
 “ were entertained ; the depth had diminished from
 “ nineteen to seven fathoms, and the water was
 “ much discolored in streaks, at less than a mile
 “ from the ship. Smokes were rising in three dif-
 “ ferent places, but the wind being unfavourable
 “ and seeing no opening sufficiently large to admit
 “ the Investigator, I gave up the further examina-
 “ tion of this place and called it STREAKY BAY.”

“ My examination was tolerably minute to be
 “ done wholly in a ship, but much still remained,
 “ which boats would best accomplish, to make the
 “ survey complete, especially in the bays of the
 “ main land. No more than a general examination
 “ was prescribed by my instructions at this time ;
 “ I therefore left the minute parts for a second visit,
 “ when the ship would be accompanied by the Lady
 “ Nelson Tender,” from events to be found recorded
 in Flinders’s Narrative, the anticipated second visit
 never took place.

Little mention is made of ANXIOUS BAY, as it was passed during the night in a state of great anxiety in consequence of a strong south-west wind ; but the ship having gained considerably in working to

windward, good anchorage was found in seven fathoms close under Waldegrave's Islands: Nothing attracted notice till the arrival at Coffin's Bay, with the exception of seeing smokes, and in some cases, natives all along the line of coast.

The HARBOURS and anchorages, which will however command the earliest attention are Coffin's Bay, Memory Cove, Port Lincoln, Hardwicke, and Nepean Bays.

COFFIN'S BAY affords shelter from all winds; the discoloured appearance of the water prevented its complete examination, but seemed to justify the belief that a considerable stream of water ran into it. The shores rise quickly from the beach to hills covered with wood, and as much smoke, and two parties of natives were seen, it is evident there exists a facility of obtaining fresh water, and that there must be fertile soil in the neighbourhood.

In MEMORY COVE is excellent anchorage for a few ships in ten fathoms close to the shore. Recent traces of natives and kangaroos were every where visible, affording proof that fresh water must be near, although the attempts of Captain Flinders to discover it were fruitless. The vallies are described as fertile, but the tops of the hills rocky and barren, with trees of the *genus Eucalyptus* scattered over them. Fish was procured in great abundance.

The harbour of PORT LINCOLN is one of the finest in the known world, very extensive, perfectly land-locked, and may be approached without fear at all times and seasons. Wood is abundant for all purposes, and an ample supply of fresh water is to be obtained by digging to the depth of three feet.

Captain Flinders, it is true, found no constant run of fresh water, but this may be accounted for, partly, by his at once obtaining a sufficient supply by digging at the head of the port within one hundred yards of the beach; partly, from his being dispirited by the loss of his master and boat's crew; and partly, from the different parties that left the ship, confining their excursions to the sea shore in hopes of finding the remains of their messmates.

As means of defence, nature seems to have planted Boston Island, and the Bicker Isles to command the entrance to the port. The soundings are regular from ten to three and a half fathoms, in which depth Captain Flinders anchored at the head of the port within half a mile of the shore.

The length of the harbour is about eight miles, preserving an average width from two to three miles to the head of the port, where it contracts to about one mile and three quarters, with three fathoms water close to the shore.

"SPALDING COVE with a sandy beach at the "head, is capable of sheltering a fleet of ships, if "the depth should be sufficient to receive them, "which it appeared to be; wood was not wanting "there, but no stream of water could be distin- "guished." (*Australian Directory, Vol. I. page 53.*) Captain Flinders remarks that the excellence of the harbour seems to invite the establishment of a colony at Port Lincoln, while he cannot speak as to the soil. On this subject much remains for future examination. Captain Baudin with the French *expedition* visited this port in 1802, and again in 1803; the following is an extract from a work en-

titled "*Voyage de decouvertes aux terres Australes*," by M. Peron, the naturalist who accompanied the expedition.

Vol. II. page 202.—“ On the western shore, and near the entrance of Spencer’s Gulf, is Port Lincoln, one of the most beautiful and most secure harbours in Australia. The bottom is every where excellent, and the soundings are regular from ten to twelve fathoms (French) very close to the shore. The extent of this most magnificent harbour affords sufficient anchorage for any number of ships. At the mouth of the harbour Boston Island is situated, on each side of which is a passage free from danger of between two and three miles in width.

“ Nature seems to have done every thing in favour of this port ; for that sterility and monotonous appearance which marks the land in the neighbourhood here vanish, and give place to a fertility to which we had long been strangers ; the land is more elevated, rises quickly from the shore, and is thickly clothed with timber.

“ It is true that we found no stream of fresh water, but the vigour and the freshness of the vegetation, and the elevation of the land, seem to indicate the existence of rivulets, or at least of some considerable springs. On this favoured spot the inhabitants must be numerous, for the whole coast appeared to us to be covered with the fires of the natives.”

From the same, vol. III. page 162. “ The most interesting part of Spencer’s Gulph is the magnificent harbour of Port Lincoln, of which we have already given a description in the fifteenth chapter

of this work, but which is well worthy of further notice."

The Port is composed of three bays, each of which, from its extent, is capable of containing the combined navies of Europe; the soundings are regular from ten to twelve fathoms, with a soft muddy bottom. Boston Island is situated at the entrance of this excellent harbour, on either side of which there is a passage, through which the largest man of war may work with perfect ease. The north passage is the narrowest, and leads into Boston Bay: that on the south is wider, and opens on one side into Western Bay, and on the other into Spalding Cove. Two small islands are placed at the opening of the Southern Bay, which likewise afford good anchorage. The same may be said of Grant-ham Island, as well as of every part of the Port.

"Shall I now revert to what I have before stated as to the fertility of the soil? Shall I speak of the beautiful vallies, which appeared to indicate the existence of springs or streams of fresh water? Ought I to dwell on the numerous fires we perceived all along the shores, which led us to conclude that this spot was far more thickly peopled than any other part of the southern coast?

"Equal if not superior to Port Jackson, Port Lincoln is in every respect one of the best and most beautiful harbours in the known world; and of all those we discovered or visited on the coasts of Australia, it appears to be, and I here repeat it, the most inviting, the most advantageous for the establishment of an European colony.

“The peremptory orders we had received from our commander compelled us to quit this interesting spot before we had time to complete our examinations of the port.”

HARDWICKE BAY does not seem to have undergone very minute investigation from Captain Flinders; it is, however, very extensive, and affords complete shelter from all southern winds. This, from its central situation, will be one of the first spots to be accurately surveyed.

“The land trends eastward from Corny Point “to the head of the bay about seven leagues; but “what may be the depth of water, or whether any “fresh stream fall into it, I am unable to state; the “land was better wooded, and had a more fertile “appearance than any yet seen in the neighbourhood.”—(*Flinders' Voyage, Vol. I.* page 164.)

KANGAROO ISLAND is a point of great importance not only from its being itself a very desirable situation for a settlement, but, from its vicinity to Encounter Bay, where the Morrumbidgee River empties itself into the sea. Of the fertility of this island, certain information has been obtained. Captain Sutherland in a colonial trader remained there upwards of nine months collecting seal skins and salt; but as he is about to publish an account of the Island, it is unnecessary to say more here than that the soil is very fertile, the timber abundant for all purposes, and inferior to none in size and quality to that known in the other colonies. He discovered an excellent harbour within Nepean Bay, found plenty of fresh water close to the shore, and states the interior of the country to

be one continued undulating grassy plain, with an average of about three timber trees to an acre, interspersed with springs of fresh water. There are no native inhabitants, and the wild dog, so destructive to the sheep on the main, was never seen. Blue slate was met with, and salt of a very superior quality was found in great abundance.

ENCOUNTER BAY has not been minutely examined, but a recent discovery attaches the greatest importance to it. When Captain Flinders visited it he met the French Ship Le Géographe, and was occupied in clearing for action instead of continuing his researches. In the commencement of the year 1830, Captain Sturt of the 39th Regiment, discovered a river which he descended from Oxley's Swamp in New South Wales, till it joined the sea at Encounter Bay, a distance of 1000 miles. It was found to be navigable the whole way, was generally from 300 to 400 yards in width, twenty feet in depth, and flowed through a country inferior to none in Australia for fertility. Two rivers of considerable importance joined it in its course, one of which was supposed to be the Darling, which takes its rise near the Blue Mountains in New South Wales. The only communication with the sea which Captain Sturt was able to explore, in consequence of his scanty stock of provisions, and the approaching rains which might possibly prevent his return, is navigable only for boats.

The advantages attendant on such an immense extent of water carriage, and opening a direct communication with the settlements west of the Blue Mountains, need no comment.

Taking into consideration every circumstance, either Kangaroo Island, or Port Lincoln will be fixed upon for the first Settlement. Each possesses the primary requisites for the foundation of a Colony: viz. a secure and commodious harbour, with the facility of procuring an abundant supply of water and wood for all purposes.

The CLIMATE at the entrance of the Gulf will be found to correspond with that of Lisbon, which is sufficiently known and appreciated. "Of the climate " we had no reason to speak but in praise, nor were " we incommoded by noxious insects. The range " of the thermometer on board the ship was, from " 66° to 78°, and that of the barometer from 29.94 " to 30.20 inches. The weather was generally " cloudy, the winds light, coming from the east- " ward in the mornings, and southward after noon. " On shore the average height of the thermometer " AT NOON was 76°." (*Flinders' Voyage, Vol. I.* p. 148.) This was during the first week in March, corresponding with the month of September in the northern hemisphere.

In point of salubrity, there is every reason to believe that the whole of extra-tropical Australia is free from endemic disease, (the curse of most new Settlements) and that it resembles New South Wales, which is now acknowledged to be one of the most healthy climates in the world.

Amongst the advantages attendant on a colony to be established on this coast is, an INLAND NAVIGATION, at once open to the extent of 185 miles, an advantage not possessed by any of the Australian Colonies: and when it is taken into consider-

ration, that the direction of Spencer's Gulf is due north, it will be seen that there is at once a conveyance established for produce which may require different degrees of heat to cultivate.

THE ISLANDS at the entrance of the Gulf abound with Seals, and there is every reason to believe, that the Whale Fishery will prove at least as successful to Colonists established here, as to the inhabitants of Van Diemen's Land, who consider this branch of industry as profitable as any in which they can now engage.

The prevailing winds being from the southward and westward render the passage to and from Launceston at all times easy ; from which place, or Circular Head, (the establishment of the Van Diemen's Land Company) ample supplies of provisions may be had on the most moderate terms. Considering the cruel privations to which the original settlers of most new Colonies have been subject, in consequence of their distance from Provision Markets, and the consequent retardment of their prosperity, the facility of intercourse from the outset with a country now overstocked with provisions, (of which there can be no doubt in this case) is one of the most striking features..

As a place of shelter it must attract the notice of every seaman, and would doubtless be frequented by ships for the purpose of refitting and procuring refreshments, besides ultimately leading to the western passage being adopted from Sydney, and Van Diemen's Land, instead of those through Torres' Straits, or round the Horn ; and there is reason to believe on the authority of Captains Flinders and

King,* (*See King's Voyage, Vol. ii. page 378*), that near the south coast, the south-westerly winds are not so constant, and that they seldom, if ever, blow to the land ; there are also numerous bays and coves, which would afford shelter should a ship be obliged to bear up from stress of weather.

That **RIVERS** flow into the Gulf which may eventually prove of vast importance to the colony, seems an opinion which may be hazarded, not only on account of the Tides, but from the hurried survey of Captain Flinders. Many parts of the shores were left unexamined, as will be seen by reference to his chart : amongst which are Boston, and Louth Bays, a Lagoon about sixty miles to the northward of Reevesby-Island, and two openings near Point Lowly, one of which he says "left us a consolatory " hope that it would terminate in a river of import- "tance ;" (*Flinders' Voyage, Vol. I. p. 156,*) but as the gulf assumed a river-like form, he steered upwards, and "as the tide ran one mile an hour past "the ship, we still flattered ourselves with a pros- "pect of a longer course, and that it would end "in a fresh water river." (p. 157). It seems extraordinary that on Captain Flinders' return down the eastern shore, he did not stretch across the gulf to examine what had attracted his notice as the mouth of a considerable river. The great eastern shoal prevented his examining the eastern shore for a con-

* It appears from recent information that the south-westerly gales that sometimes occur during that season, from December to March, seldom, if ever blow home upon the coast, and that when they do reach the land they partake more of the character of the sea breeze.

siderable distance, nor did he ascertain that it was connected throughout: hence there is room to conjecture that a channel caused by some river may be found through the shoal.

"From the top of Mount Brown the view was extensive; in almost every direction the eye travelled over an uninterrupted flat, wooded country, but no river was perceived."—(*Flinders's Voyage, Vol. 1, page 159*). If a river had existed, the wood might have prevented its being discovered, as occurred repeatedly in Van Diemen's Land; it is not to be presumed, therefore, that because Captain Flinders did not find a river by a bird's eye view over the woods, there is not one to be found. The soil at the head of the gulf between the Mangrove Swamps, and the feet of the rising hills, was found to be tolerably good; the traces of the inhabitants were numerous, which leads to the conclusion that this part is quite as fully inhabited as most parts of Australia. The western shore of the Gulf of St. Vincent was not thoroughly examined, but what was seen of it gave the idea that Yorke's Peninsula possessed more fertility of soil than any other part seen. The country seemed to be continual undulating grassy plains, with clumps of trees scattered over them, while the fact of the grass being green at that hot season, proves, not only that the land must be rich, but that fresh water cannot be far distant.

APPENDIX.

REPORT of a Voyage from SYDNEY to KANGAROO ISLAND
and of Observations made during a stay of seven
months on, and near the island, by Captain SUTHER-
LAND, who in the year 1819 was employed by some
merchants of Sydney to command a vessel of 140 tons,
expressly fitted out for the purpose of obtaining a
cargo of salt and seal skins from Kangaroo Island.
Captain Sutherland has been engaged for many years
in the trade between England and New Holland, and
lately commanded the ship *Lang*. He is now in
London.

October 4th, 1831.

On the 8th of January, 1819, we arrived at Kangaroo Island from Sydney, after a pleasant passage of fourteen days, during which nothing particular occurred to attract our attention. We anchored in Lagoon Bay, in about four fathoms water (sand and mud) close in shore: our first object being to procure salt to ballast the ship and to cure skins. To facilitate this object two boats were dispatched, with five men in each, to discover the salt Lagoon, and ascertain where the seals resorted to round the island. While these two boats were thus engaged, our other boat and three men were employed in searching for water, and examining the various bays and anchorage. During our ramble on this occasion we discovered a well with a small supply of water, near which we observed a flat stone with some writing on the surface. This appears to be the place where the French navigator watered: the

ship and captain's names, with the particular dates, were cut on this stone; but being in French we paid little or no attention to it, not at the time imagining it would be of consequence at any future period. Close to Point Marsden in Nepean Bay, about twenty yards from the sea at high water, behind the bank washed up by the sea, we dug a hole about four feet deep: it immediately filled with fresh water. We put a cask into it, which was always filled as fast as two hands could bale it out. The water was excellent, as clear as crystal, and I never tasted better. This hole supplied us whilst we were in Nepean Bay, and so plentifully that we had no occasion to look further for fresh water thereabouts. When on the south and west coasts of the island, we had no occasion to dig for water having always found plenty in lagoons close to the beach. The water of the lagoons, though not bad, is not so good as that of the springs: the people settled on the island (mentioned hereafter) had not dug for water till I arrived there, but depended entirely on the lagoons: they however followed my example, and I was told had no difficulty in obtaining excellent water by digging in various parts of the island. On the return of the boats, in three or four days, we weighed and stood further into the bay, in a much more safe anchorage, being sheltered from all winds. We moored ship, and each individual took part in pursuing the objects of the voyage: my own lot with another person was to stay by the ship, during which time I had many opportunities of examining the bays, harbours, sands, and different anchorages, with many other occurrences and incidents which I could not now relate from lapse of time.

From Point Marsden a sand spit runs out at least four miles in a south-easterly direction, which is not mentioned in any of the English charts: I have corrected this in my own, and called it Sutherland Shoal. I made a regular

sketch of the island as near as I could, having due regard to all the bays with the best anchorages, and all the probable dangers I could discover. Having sailed twice round the Island, I have placed several small reefs and rocks on the chart as I discovered them, and drawn the south side of the island, and shewn the direction of the land. In the Bay of Shoals I planted cabbages, having brought the seed from Sydney; they proved very good and useful. While here we had abundance of fish of several kinds; the best we found was the snapper, some weighing above seven pounds; they are excellent eating, and preferable to some of our English fish: oysters, and every other species of shell fish, were abundant. These, with our daily supply of kangaroos, enabled us to live in great plenty. Indeed I never was on a voyage which pleased me better, or in which we were better supplied.

HARBOURS AND ROADSTEADS.

Twenty ships could moor within 100 yards of the shore, and the same number anchor in safety further off, the water being always smooth, sheltered by the land from the north-west, and from the southward by Kangaroo Head, and from the north-east by Sutherland's Shoal, extending from Point Marsden about four miles, always dry at half ebb for nearly the whole distance. The shore is thickly lined with wood and shrubs, interspersed with several high hills protecting the anchorage: the opposite coast on the main is Cape St. Vincent's, which I should judge to be about fourteen or fifteen miles from the anchorage, but nearer to Kangaroo Head by three or four miles. The main land here is very high, and at the head of the bay wears every appearance of an inlet or river.

THE SOIL.

I had an opportunity of seeing much of the interior of the island, having crossed the country in company with two sealers, who had been residents on the island for several years. The land wears every appearance of being fertile; a deep loam with coarse grass, abounding with kangaroos and emus: where these animals feed, the grass is much better for pasture: occasional ponds of rain water are seen, and a plentiful supply of pure spring water is always attainable by digging for it. The land here is as good as any I have seen in Van Diemen's Land. In the neighbourhood of Sydney I have not observed any equal to it. Trees are scattered every where over the plains—the Swamp Oak or Beef wood, and the Wattle (both of which indicate good land) are growing in abundance here. Close on the shore within from a quarter to half a mile of the sea, the wood is very thick; but when this belt of wood is passed, you come on to an open country, covered with grass, where there are often hundreds of acres without a tree; I calculated by comparison with New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land, there might be on this plain, on the average three or four trees to the acre. I once crossed the Island, a distance of about sixty miles in two days. Once past the belt of wood which surrounds the Island, we walked straight on end over the plains, found plenty of water in ponds, saw abundance of kangaroos and emus, and met with no difficulty or trouble. As we crossed the Island I looked to the right and left, and saw every where the same open plains, now and then changed in appearance by close timber of great height, on high points and ridges of land. In some places we found the grass very high and coarse in patches, but where the greatest number of kangaroos and emus were found, the

grass was short and close. In the other places, short close grass was found between the coarse high patches.

Whilst crossing the Island we saw plenty of parrots and wild pigeons, and black swans on the lagoons.

PRODUCTIONS.

With the exception of salt, the timber appears the principal production we have observed of this place. The trees are the same as at New South Wales and Van Diemen's Land; some run exceedingly high and large in circumference, and may be converted into every domestic purpose as well as maritime, as many may be found and selected for ship's spars and other purposes of ship-building. Twenty years ago an American ship was cast away on the coast, and the crew built a schooner in Lagoon Bay, which enabled them to get away after a residence of several months on the Island. Salt is produced here in abundance; I should say between two and three hundred tons could be collected from the Lagoon with a little attention; the distance to the beach is about three quarters of a mile, and from the beach to where ships anchor about four miles. This Lagoon is a perfect circle of about three miles in circumference. The prospect about this Lagoon is very pleasant. Close to the salt water lake is another of fresh, but considerably smaller. It was at this spot our people erected their tents while collecting the salt. Pigeons and kangaroos make their appearance here regularly morning and evening for water, so that we were well supplied with fresh provisions for very little trouble.

My attention was next directed to the lime-stone of the Island,—in several places I found it plentiful but not general over the country. Free-stone and granite are also in large quantities, so that people emigrating to this

country would find every necessary as in Europe and both the other Colonies. I make no doubt but some more valuable productions might be found on examination and enquiry—my time and attention were of course more particularly devoted to the object of my voyage.

January, when I reached the Island, is the middle of the summer; and the autumn and winter elapsed during our stay. In the winter it appeared to me much less cold than in Van Diemen's Land, and I observed generally that the changes of temperature are less sudden and frequent than in New South Wales.

THE CLIMATE

appeared to me very temperate, and not subject to oppressive heat, nor do the rains fall in torrents as at Sydney; the dews are heavy, but not injurious to health, which we had ample opportunity of proving, owing to the frequent exposure of our men, many of whom have slept under trees and bushes for several nights together, and though almost wet through, never experienced any ill effects.—I had fifteen men under my command, and though they were a class of people who take no care of themselves, not one of them was ill during our stay, nor did my own health suffer at all, though I was exposed to all weathers both night and day.

The winds there are regular land and sea breezes, with occasional calms; during the winter months strong south westerly winds prevail, but are not of any duration, and cannot throw any sea into the anchorages to injure the shipping, they being completely landlocked,—a vessel on making for the Island, must be careful in not standing too close to the shore, until they ascertain their true position, as several dangers are still unexplored on the southern part of the Island; this I would leave entirely to the judg-

